

April 29, 1999

2841 '99 MAY -4 P2:56

Karen Colterjohn
2049 Crestvue Circle
Golden, CO 80401

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Docket number 99D-0557

Dear Sir/Madam:

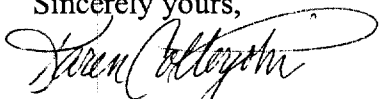
I am writing to express my strong conviction that all xenotransplantation is a bad idea. Regardless of the species used in the transplants, the threat of inter species virus transmission is enough of a concern to halt further research attempts. There is no evidence that pigs are any safer than nonhuman primates. We have much evidence that pig viruses would be just as dangerous as nonhuman primate viruses (influenza, PERVs, paramyxovirus, and earlier this year, the Nipah virus in Malaysia that has resulted in hundreds of human infections, 98 human deaths, and 640,500 pigs slaughtered since March 20).

There are safer and more humane alternatives to xenotransplantation that are not being explored by regulatory authorities. These include aggressively promoting preventive medicine, and increasing human organ donation rates as many European countries have successfully done through various legislative schemes. The U.S. General Accounting Office published a report on Organ Donation in April 1998 that revealed an untapped donor pool of 150,000 people in the United States. The Dept. of Health and Human Services should fully investigate the points made in that report before allowing xenotransplants to go forward.

I believe that the U.S. should follow Europe's lead. In January 1999, the Council of Europe, representing 40 European countries, recommended a worldwide ban on xenotransplants.

If there is anything else I can do to 'register my vote,' please let me know and I will gladly do it. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely yours,

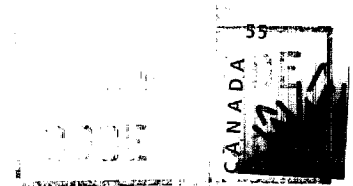


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